

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. On September 29, 2008, Applicant elected claims 2 and 14-16 in response to the Election of Species Requirement. Claims 2 and 16 stand rejected. Claims 14 and 15 are objected to, but Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that these claims contain allowable subject matter.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate acceptance of the drawings as filed. Also, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 7, 2005, July 26, 2005, and May 23, 2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. 6,407,763) in view of Murata (U.S. 3,936,816). Applicant traverses the grounds of rejection for at least the following reasons.

The claimed invention relates to an image display panel containing liquid powders. The liquid powders are suspended in an aerosol state between two opposing substrates, at least one of which is transparent. An electrostatic field created by a drive signal moves the liquid powders so as to display an image. The Examiner argues that all of the above features except the aerosol state are disclosed by Yamaguchi. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 2 recites that “a chip for transmitting a drive signal to the image display panel is arranged in the substrate.” Yamaguchi does not disclose or fairly suggest at least this feature of the invention recited in claim 2.

Yamaguchi discloses an image display medium that can apply an electric force to particles in order to obtain an image. Col. 2, lines 26-50. An electric field is generated within an image-forming apparatus by an electric field-generating unit, which is disclosed to be made from either matrix, pixel or stylus electrodes, or an ion-generating unit. Col. 7, lines 13-45.

Yamaguchi also discloses a voltage-applying unit to apply voltage between a pair of substrates. However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these units “transmit[s] a drive signal to the image display panel” as required of the chip in claim 2.

Instead, Yamaguchi seems to teach that electrodes are arranged separately, in the desired structure, and that when “electrodes are formed on the pair of substrates, the electric field adapted to the image can be generated by applying a voltage adapted to the image”. Col. 7, lines 25-28. The voltage that is applied from the voltage-applying unit is not described in much detail, except to say that “particle groups between the substrates are moved according to the image by the voltage applied by the voltage-applying unit to form the image.” Col. 7, line 67 to col. 8, line 3.

At a later point, Yamaguchi discloses more details of an electric field-generating device, but does not teach or fairly suggest that the device is included in the structure of an image display medium. See Col. 21 line 53 to col. 22 line 4. Instead, the electric field-generating device of Yamaguchi is contained within an image-forming apparatus, which is distinct and separate from the image display medium (alleged image display panel). See col. 22, lines 54-57; fig. 1, features 10 and 12.

Since the units in Yamaguchi are not “arranged in the substrate” which is part of the image display panel, Yamaguchi does not disclose or fairly suggest all features of the instant invention as claimed. Murata is unable to cure the deficient disclosure of Yamaguchi with respect to the “chip for transmitting a drive signal” as required by claim 2. Although Murata discloses circuitry in, for example, Fig. 4, the circuits are shown apart from the electrodes and not connected in any way that would teach or suggest that they are “arranged in the substrate”. In fact, Murata describes Fig. 4 as having a display section and a drive circuit section, and does not disclose or fairly suggest that the drive circuit section is arranged in a part of the display section. See col. 4, lines 13-18.

Furthermore, the Examiner admits that “Yamaguchi et al. does not disclose an aerosol state such that solid-like substances are suspended in a gas stably as dispersoid” as recited in claim 2. Murata mentions that a material may be a dispersoid, but it does not teach or suggest an aerosol state as required by claim 2.

In additional, Applicant respectfully submits that even if, *arguendo*, the combination of Yamaguchi and Murata did disclose all features of the claimed invention, the Examiner has not given adequate reasons to combine the references. At the bottom of Page 2, the Examiner states that the motivation to combine would be “to permit versatile display”, but this is too general. Yamaguchi does not make any specific reference that would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that versatility would be lacking, or that a dispersoid would be a desirable material. Without adequate reasons to combine the references, any combination based on hypothetical advantages would employ impermissible hindsight.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the section 103 rejection of claim 2. Claim 16, which depends from claim 2, should be

allowable at least by virtue of its dependency, as well as by virtue of the additional features recited therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has not amended claims 14 and 15 at the present time.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

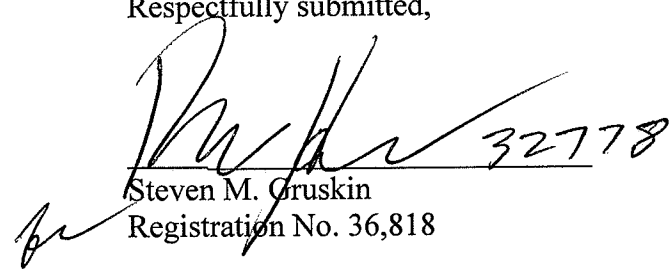
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